

AUDIT COMMITTEE
19 July 2023

ANNUAL RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT 2022/23

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on the approach to and outcomes from the Council's Risk Management processes.

Summary

2. Positive progress continues to be made within the Authority regarding the management of key strategic risks and with the work undertaken by officers to manage operational risks.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended this Risk Management Report be noted.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported to provide the Audit Committee with evidence to reflect on the Council's approach to Risk Management.

Ian Williams
Chief Executive

Background Papers

- (i) Council's Risk Management Strategy
- (ii) Corporate and Group Risk Registers
- (iii) Mid Year Risk Management Report to Audit Committee January 2023
- (iv) Interim Risk Management Report to Audit Committee April 2023

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder
Health and Well Being	There is no specific health and well-being impact
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific recommendations contained within the attached reports concerning Carbon Reduction.
Diversity	There is no specific diversity impact.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally
Groups Affected	All groups are affected equally
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter
Council Plan	Maintaining an appropriate oversight of risk will help contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan Objectives
Efficiency	Insurance premiums reflect the pro-active approach taken to risk management within the Council.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The report does not impact upon Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Background

5. Risk Management is an essential part of effective and efficient management and planning and it strengthens the ability of the Council to achieve its objectives and enhance the value of services provided. It is also an important element in demonstrating continuous improvement as well as being part of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance that reflects the requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework of Corporate Governance.

Information and Analysis

Strategic Risk Outcomes

6. A key element of the Council's planning process is that the areas of potential risk, which could adversely impact on the ability to meet objectives set out in the Council plan, are identified together with the officer responsible for managing that risk. These risks are plotted on to a standard likelihood and impact matrix. There is also reference to management controls in place and working. The shaded part of the matrix signifies the area above the 'risk appetite line'. Risks in this region require further specific management, i.e. they are priorities for improvement that have an appropriate improvement action plan.
7. Following a review of the Council's Risk Management Strategy, the risks plotted on the matrices are now categorised as Strategic Risks and linked to the relevant objective in the Council Plan, where appropriate. This is to ensure there is a greater focus on managing the risks to the Council delivering the objectives set out in the Council Plan and to ensure more effective management of inter-departmental risks. The revised risk matrices are attached at **Appendices A and B**.
8. All risks are continually managed during the year by Corporate and Departmental Management Teams including any emerging risks identified. In addition, Assistant Directors/Heads of Service are required to confirm in their Annual Managers Assurance Statements (MAS) that processes are in place to ensure that controls identified to support the positioning of risks on the risk matrices are in place and working.
9. The information that follows, provided by appropriate departmental staff, details progress made on improvement actions for those risks identified as above the risk appetite line.
 - a) **Strategic Risks** (Appendix B) – nine risks have been identified as above the risk appetite line.
 - i. **(SR15) Inability to cope with significant increase in homelessness cases following the impact of COVID**

Additional funding has been provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for homeless services. More accommodation and support has been commissioned to cope with increased demand and additional staff have been recruited to the Housing Options Team.

However, demand for emergency accommodation has remained high with the shortage of appropriate move on accommodation exacerbating the issue.

ii. (SR16) Inability to contain placement costs for children looked after

A full Transformation and Efficiency programme is being delivered with the key objective of developing sufficient provision within or close to Darlington that meet the needs of looked after children. This includes in-house foster care, residential care and specialist provision for complex needs. Due to the changing complexities and the demand for placements not just locally, but also regionally and nationally, the work will be informed by other localities, and joint working will take place where this can add value.

iii. (SR20) Increased demand for Adult Services impacts negatively on plans for budget efficiencies

There is increasing demand for adult social care and support specifically domiciliary care, aides, adaptations and support for people with significant learning disabilities. People are living with multiple conditions and disabilities and require intensive support to remain at home and as independent as possible. Covid has also had a significant impact on people's wellbeing and support needs. Adult Social Care will continue with the Transformation Programme and ensure that all assessments are strength based and outcome focussed with the support of the local community. Performance, practice and quality will be continuously monitored and reviewed to ensure we reduce, delay and prevent people from requiring care and support prematurely. Funding streams and grants from the Department of Health & Social Care will support the demand management and provide some temporary cost mitigation. However, with the introduction of the Integrated Care Systems there is further dialogue required to understand the resources available to support post covid recovery.

The increased demands in adult social care have resulted in waiting lists for reviews and assessments. These are mitigated by a risk management matrix to prioritise people with high needs or significant carer issues. With support from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) social discharge fund we have increased workforce capacity through agency, additional hours and fixed term contracts to manage demand however this is currently short-term funding.

iv. (SR21) Increased demand for Children's services impacts negatively on budget

Work is ongoing within the Transformation Programme to safely reduce the level of risk in children's services. Input to this work has been enhanced with colleagues from Leeds City Council under the DfE sponsored Strengthening Families Programme. The ethos of the work is continuing despite the programme formally ceasing.

- v. **(SR27) Failure to respond appropriately to safeguard vulnerable children, in line with national legislation and safeguarding children, thresholds and procedures**

Services are in place to screen contacts and referrals, and to respond should concerns be identified. Pathways for intervention are both internal and multi-agency, and the Council ensures that its own staff understand and apply them robustly.

- vi. **(SR34) Budget & resource implications arising from the ability to progress and complete schemes/projects in the event of further construction inflation, material supply and resource demands**

Within the construction industry there continues to be issues with rises in material prices and high demand for trades and resource to deliver projects of all sizes. These issues are across all sectors, both private and public. Projects developed prior to these issues materialising may not have built in contingencies into the budget or programme to absorb this. Therefore, this will require Programmes & Projects to be reviewed on an individual basis for affordability and deliverability as costs and programmes are finalised. Future project budgets will have inflation allowance built in linked to the proposed start and finish dates. It is anticipated that as inflation reduces so too will the level of risk.

- vii. **(SR39) The Council is unable to deliver housing targets detailed in the Local Plan as a result of the designation of nutrient neutrality catchment area.**

Nutrient Neutrality remains a risk for the Council in regards to meeting its housing targets. The impact is yet to be fully realised as it only affects new applications. The Council has been working closely with Natural England who will be publishing a full mitigation strategy for developers on how they can ensure future building programmes meet the obligations of Nutrient Neutrality. The mitigating actions for developers were published in March 2023.

- viii. **(SR44) April 2023 will see the implementation of the CQC inspection framework for Adult Social Care. The significant demands on adult social care, the pressures following covid and the workforce recruitment and retention issues may impact on the ratings resulting in a "requiring improvement" outcome.**

Adult Services have an implementation plan in place, containing identified actions to complete including, user feedback and engagement, evidence of quality of practice and outcomes and strategic leadership and engagement

- ix. **(SR 17) Inability to recruit and retain sufficient qualified suitably experienced social workers in Children's Services impacts on cost and quality of service.**

Ability to recruit and retain has deteriorated, as referenced in the national independent review of social care, with more social workers leaving the profession and fewer applying to become social workers. The workforce challenges have been compounded by a shortage in temporary agency social workers, which has historically helped to mitigate the risks. A recruitment and retention market supplement allowance has been implemented for hard to fill and hard to attract to posts and a series of bespoke recruitment events have been held. The service has also sought to strengthen links with local universities.

x. (SR8) Investment in regeneration projects is not delivered.

Within the construction industry there continues to be issues with rises in material prices and high demand for trades and resource to deliver projects of all sizes. These issues are across all sectors, both private and public. Projects developed prior to these issues materialising may not have built in contingencies into the budget or programme to absorb this. Therefore, this will require Programmes & Projects to be reviewed on an individual basis for affordability and deliverability as costs and programmes are finalised. Future project budgets will have inflation allowance built in linked to the proposed start and finish dates. Furthermore, we are exploring additional sources of external funding e.g., Government grants and more effective partnerships working to share the risk. It is anticipated that as inflation reduces so too will the level of risk.

xi. (SR35) Potential impact on public transport networks if commercial services do not recover or continue to receive support from Government and routes are withdrawn.

Bus patronage suffered significantly through the pandemic and post covid passenger numbers have not recovered to previous levels, putting the viability of commercial services at risk. Additional Government funding has been made available to TVCA as the Transport Authority to support services at risk and we are working together to understand what can be done to mitigate any impact.

Operational Risk Outcomes

10. The Insurance Group continues to meet representatives of the Council's insurers to examine insurance claims. The insurers provide the group with an update in relation to trends and operational risks to enable continuous improvement to the risk management and health and safety culture within the organisation.
11. Health and Safety continues to be a key priority for the Council at all levels and continues to be promoted through all working practices. The total number of reports to the HSE, as required by the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) was 15 in 2022/23. All accidents and ill health reports are investigated by management and the Health & Safety Team to establish the causes, to identify issues or trends and make recommendations to prevent reoccurrence.

12. Violence and aggression in the workplace remain a significant risk to council staff. Therefore, reducing the risk and protecting council workers from verbal abuse, threats and physical harm remained a key priority and targeted work has been carried out in this area, particularly in relation to the use of the personal safety devices.
13. Personal safety devices have been used as one of several measures to reduce the risk to staff from violence and aggression at work for over seven years and it is good to report that there was a positive shift in the culture around using personal safety devices during 2022/23. Management have been provided with further tools and support to help improve usage and staff feedback from many service areas, including social care and building services has been positive. Usage steadily increased month on month, with the council average usage in March 2023 exceeding the good practice benchmark. The devices were used by staff to generate 14 genuine red alerts in 2022/23, four of which were escalated to the emergency services, all of which were closed successfully without injury. These situations highlight the important role the devices play in protecting staff from violence and aggression.
14. A full programme of health and safety audits were carried out during 2022/23. In addition to standard health and safety compliance audits, a self-assessment audit was introduced for the first time. The self-assessment style audit permitted managers to complete the audit using audit software, answering questions and uploading evidence showing how compliance with health and safety standards is achieved.
15. Inspections were also undertaken to monitor health and safety during day-to-day activities. Visits were made to construction new build and refurbishment sites, housing planned maintenance, highways schemes, environmental service teams, leisure and culture settings and schools. These visits included observing health and safety practices and provide opportunity for operatives to raise health and safety concerns and discuss ideas. Many examples of good health and safety practice were observed and no major non-conformances identified, however, where practices/environment fell below acceptable standards, these were reported to management for action.
16. It was previously reported that in March 2020 a new Street Works Permit Scheme has been implemented in Darlington. The Permit Scheme requires all works promoters to provide adequate information when they intend to undertake works in the carriageways, footways and verges within the adopted highway to enable us to understand and more easily manage the impact of these essential works on the highway network.
17. The second Annual Report on the scheme is available on the Council's [website](#). There are no issues highlighted within this report. The third annual report is to be completed this year, then every two years thereafter.
18. The new "Report It" website for highway & street lighting defects has now received over 2,500 reports since it was introduced in June 2021. We can now begin to compare data. For example, in the period July to October 2021, Report It received 157 pothole/road condition reports. For the same period in 2022 the figure was 78. This reduction is reflected in the number of potholes repaired, including those identified on routine inspection. For the period July to October 2021, 1,937 potholes were repaired. For the same period in 2022 the figure was 1,306.

19. It is likely that the continuing micro-asphalt programme as well as a mild winter last year helped to reduce the number of potholes forming. We continue to carry out highway safety inspections at a suitable frequency to ensure that potholes are identified and repaired as soon as possible.
20. The work in recent years to convert the street lighting stock to LED lanterns continues to show benefits. As well as the reduction in carbon emissions and electricity costs there has been a decrease in the number of faults reported. Work is now underway to convert sign lanterns to LED, this work will be complete during 2022/24.
21. The 2023/24 maintenance program of works has now been agreed and published on the Council's website, this includes looking at using alternative materials which will help to reduce our carbon emissions and prolong the life of some of our roads.
22. A total of 13 schemes will be completed as part of this years surfacing program including two footways, one back lane and six km of micro-asphalt surfacing.
23. The proactive tree risk management processes continues to provide positive results enabling the Council to defend the majority of storm and subsidence compensation claims received.
24. Following on from the 2021 Employee Survey, it was agreed to conduct a Wellness Survey to gain further insight into our workforce health. The survey, ran in Autumn 2022, consisted of workplace questions looking at the environment, support available from colleagues and managers and the perceived pressure that employees are exposed to. Personal lifestyle questions were also asked to assist with building the wellbeing programme themes and targeting support and initiatives to groups.
25. The results of the survey will help to create and target our wellness programme moving forward.
26. In terms of how respondents rated their employment:
 - 77% of respondents would rate the Council as an excellent/good employer.
 - 85% of those do know where to get support if their mental wellbeing is affected negatively.
 - 79% of respondents would feel confident talking to their manager about a mental health concern.
 - 86% think that their workplace is inclusive and feel part of the team.
27. Actions have been taken to start to address the issues above through Chief Officers Board (COB).
28. In relation to sickness absence, the year-end outturn was 9.65 days per full time employee (FTE). This year all COVID absence has been included in the figures, in 2021/22, only COVID which went beyond the initial isolation period was counted, as a result, the days lost to COVID have increased by 1175, this equates to 0.8 days per FTE.

Council	Days lost 2021/22	Days lost 2022/23	Target 2022/23
Darlington	8.23	9.65	7.5

Hartlepool	11.49	10.65	9.5
Redcar & Cleveland	8.81	9.44	7.5
Stockton	9.80	10.1	8.0

29. As can be seen from the table above, from the information we received, we compare quite favourably to our Tees Valley neighbours in terms of days lost. Other local figures we have received show Newcastle City Council out turned at 11.66 days and Gateshead 13.21.
30. Various initiatives are in place to help with absence. One being Occupational Health (OH) which is a specialist branch of medicine that focuses on the physical and mental wellbeing of employees in the workplace and considers an employee's ability and fitness to perform a particular job. It has a key role in assisting to manage risks in the workplace that may have the potential to give rise to work-related ill health. Another being Human Resource (HR) Advisor case work with Managers. The management of sickness absence is a high priority for managers and HR, with absence being actively monitored and actions taken appropriate to each case and in accordance with the absence management policy. Actions have included sickness absence review meetings, setting of improvement targets and formal monitoring/reviewing, extensions of probation periods, non-confirmation of employment after probationary period, formal caution, redeployment to alternative roles and ill health capability dismissals.
31. Wellbeing activities and events will continue to be a key feature of the wellbeing strategy. In 2022/23 we engaged with approximately 414 employees with 28 different events. Sessions that took place included mental health awareness and menopause awareness, both subjects had sessions tailored to their audience either employees or managers, designed to give managers the confidence to assist and signpost employees who are experiencing difficulties. Other sessions included, domestic abuse awareness, suicide awareness and the return of the ever-popular health checks, kindly carried out by Dolphin Centre staff. We have also continued to promote health and wellbeing via various online and poster campaigns including Wellbeing Champions and Occupational Health Briefings.
32. The key wellbeing successes that we have had over the year include:
 - The winter flu programme with a total of 378 vaccinations administered.
 - Building on mental health awareness.
 - Introduction of Vivup the new employee benefit and wellbeing scheme.
 - Increasing the number of employees engaging in wellbeing events.
33. Mental Health First Aiders and Mentors (MHFA/M) continue to be utilised. The availability of MHFA for employees to talk remains a frequent topic on communications, with the informal 'Tea and Talk' chats to share ideas about boosting mental health, wellbeing and getting help and advice about mental health in general.
34. We continue to promote the counselling and physiotherapy services to staff and both are well used and appreciated by employees.
35. Following the findings from the wellness survey and feedback from other forms of staff voice including the newly formed Engagement Ambassador Group we are looking at developing a Wellbeing strategy which focusses on 5 or 6 key themes a year. This could include the continuation of sessions such as menopause, domestic abuse and mental health awareness which proved popular during 2022/23.

36. Our workforce strategy and workforce plans continue to be embedded through briefings and team meetings. Further improvements are currently being made to our recruitment and retention strategies.
37. Council policies are reviewed on an on-going basis. Following the successful Blended Working Trial, the Ways We Can Work Policy has been updated and implemented and those who are blended workers have now been sent letters to confirm the changes to their initial contracts.

Conclusion

38. The Council's pro-active approach to risk management continues to produce positive results for the Authority.

Outcome of Consultation

39. There has been no formal consultation in the preparation of this report.

COUNCIL PLAN OBJECTIVES

Council Plan Objective	Strategic Risk(s) relevant to delivery of Council Plan Objective
CP1 - Growing Darlington's economy	SR1, SR7, SR8, SR10, SR13, SR14, SR22, SR23, SR24, SR33, SR34, SR35, SR36, SR39, SR40, SR47
CP2 - Maximise the potential of our young people	SR17, SR19, SR21, SR23, SR28, SR31, SR35, SR36, SR38, SR42
CP3 - Supporting the most vulnerable in the borough	SR3, SR15, SR18, SR16, SR17, SR18, SR20, SR21, SR22, SR23, SR24, SR26, SR27, SR28, SR29, SR35, SR36, SR38, SR42, SR43, SR44, SR45, SR46
CP4 - Working with communities to maximise their potential	SR35, SR36, SR37
CP5 - <i>A dedicated workforce who are proud to serve the borough and an accessible, effective and engaged council*</i>	SR41

**While not a Council Plan objective the objectives are supported by...*

RISK MATRIX

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

LIKELIHOOD	A Very High				
	B High			SR21	
	C Significant		SR11, SR13, SR41, SR45	SR8, SR15, SR16, SR17, SR20, SR34, SR35, SR39, SR44	
	D Low		SR12, SR28	SR3, SR6, SR7, SR10, SR14, SR18, SR19, SR22, SR23, SR24, SR25, SR26, SR31, SR33, SR36, SR37, SR38, SR39, SR40, SR42, SR46	SR27
	E Very Low		SR1		SR47
	F Almost Impossible				
		IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catastrophic
IMPACT					

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Risk No. & relevant Council Plan objective(s)	Risk	Responsible Person	Movement in Period	Reason for Movement on Matrix	Progress on Action Plan for Risks Above the Appetite Line that have not moved
SR1 (CP1)	Implementation of recommendations from the Capital Process Review is needed to improve effective capital project management	Ant Hewitt	None at E/III		
SR3 (CP3)	Business Continuity Plans not in place or tested for key critical services	Dave Winstanley	None at D/II		
SR6	Risk of regulatory action and increased costs resulting from PCI-DSS Non-Compliance	Elizabeth Davison	None at D/II		
SR7 (CP1)	Financial implications of maintaining and conserving key corporate assets within the borough	Dave Winstanley	None at D/II		
SR8 (CP1)	Investment in regeneration projects is not delivered	Ian Williams	Increased to C/II		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) x
SR10 (CP1)	Planning Performance at risk of Standards Authority intervention	David Coates	None at D/II		

SR11	VAT partial exemption breach due to exempt VAT being close to the 5% limit	Brett Nielsen	None at C/III		
SR12	Fraud in General	Andrew Barber	None at D/III		
SR13 (CP1)	Instability within financial markets adversely impacts on finance costs and investments	Brett Nielsen	None at C/III		
SR14 (CP1)	Financial pressures to the General Fund as a result of increased levels of unemployment and increased Council Tax Support claims	Anthony Sandys	None at D/II		
SR15 (CP3)	Inability to cope with significant increase in homelessness cases following the impact of COVID.	Anthony Sandys	None at C/II		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) i
SR16 (CP3)	Inability to contain placement costs for children looked after due to lack of sufficient in house placements	Chris Bell	None at C/II		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) ii

SR17 (CP2, CP3)	Inability to recruit and retain sufficient qualified suitably experienced social workers in Children's Services impacts on cost and quality of service	Chris Bell	Increased to C/II		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) ix
SR18 (CP3)	Inability to recruit and retain sufficient qualified suitably experienced social workers and reablement staff in Adult Services impacts on cost and quality of service	Joss Harbron	Reduced to D/II	Vacancies have reduced from 25.8% to 11.6%	
SR19 (CP2)	Failure to identify vulnerable schools and broker appropriate support to address needs	Tony Murphy	None at D/II		
SR20 (CP3)	Increased demand for Adult Services impacts negatively on plans for budget efficiencies	Joss Harbron	None at C/II		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) iii
SR21 (CP2, CP3)	Increased demand for Children's Services impacts negatively on budget	Chris Bell	None at B/II		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) iv
SR22 (CP1, CP3)	Market (Domiciliary Care Residential Care providers) failure following the Care Act/Living Wage	Christine Shields	None at D/II		

SR23 (CP1, CP2, CP3)	Market (Domiciliary Care Residential Care providers) for Vulnerable Families with Children (including SEND) experiences provider failure	Christine Shields	None at D/II		
SR24 (CP1, CP3)	Market (Domiciliary Care Residential Care providers) failure as a result of increased transmissibility of new variants	Christine Shields	None at D/II		
SR25	The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Threshold changes significantly increases the amount of people deprived of their liberty resulting in potential for increased legal challenge	Joss Harbron	None at D/II		
SR26 (CP3)	Failure to respond appropriately to safeguard vulnerable adults, in line with national legislation and safeguarding adults procedures	Joss Harbron	None at D/II		
SR27 (CP3)	Failure to respond appropriately to safeguard vulnerable children, in line with national legislation and safeguarding children, thresholds and procedures	Chris Bell	None at D/I		See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) v

SR28 (CP2, CP3)	Working with other local commissioners to ensure their understanding of their responsibilities within the Childhood pathway	Penny Spring	None at D/III		
SR29 (CP3)	Risk of unsuccessful mobilisation of new service - Support, Recovery and Treatment in Darlington through Empowerment (STRIDE)	Penny Spring	Removed from C/III	The service has been successfully mobilised with all elements now in place	
SR31 (CP2)	Failure to maintain dedicated home to school transport services	Tony Murphy	None at D/II		
SR33 (CP1)	Impact of national cost of living crisis on customers and audiences for Leisure and Cultural facilities	Ian Thompson	None at D/II		
SR34 (CP1)	Budget & resource implications arising from the ability to progress and complete schemes/projects in the event of further construction inflation, material supply and resource demands	Ant Hewitt	None at C/II		See main body of report at paragraph 11 (a) vi

<p>SR35 (CP1, CP2, CP3, CP4)</p>	<p>Potential impact on public transport networks if commercial services do not recover or continue to receive support from Government and routes are withdrawn</p>	<p>Ant Hewitt</p>	<p>Increased to C/II</p>		<p>See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) xi</p>
<p>SR36 (CP1, CP2, CP3, CP4)</p>	<p>Failure to meet the Council's commitment to becoming Carbon neutral by 2050</p>	<p>Mark Ladyman</p>	<p>None at D/II</p>		
<p>SR37 (CP4)</p>	<p>Failure to operate an effective Channel Panel</p>	<p>Ian Thompson</p>	<p>None at D/II</p>		
<p>SR38 (CP2, CP3)</p>	<p>Reputational and regulatory risk if reinspection not successful</p>	<p>Tony Murphy</p>	<p>None at D/II</p>		
<p>SR39 (CP1)</p>	<p>The Council is unable to deliver housing targets detailed in the Local Plan as a result of the designation of nutrient neutrality catchment area</p>	<p>Mark Ladyman</p>	<p>None at C/II</p>		<p>See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) vii</p>
<p>SR40 (CP1)</p>	<p>Managing the impact of severe weather events</p>	<p>Mark Ladyman/Ian Thompson</p>	<p>None at D/II</p>		
<p>SR41 (CP5)</p>	<p>Staffing risk – failure to recruit to vacant posts</p>	<p>Brett Nielsen</p>	<p>None at C/III</p>		
<p>SR42 (CP2, CP3)</p>	<p>Risk Reworded Risk of enforcement action from the ICO in relation to subject access requests (SARs)</p>	<p>Luke Swinhoe</p>	<p>None at D/II</p>		

<p>SR43 (CP3)</p>	<p>Risk of new dangerous variant or a significant wave of COVID-19/the activation of UKHSA Contingency plan impacts on the Council’s ability to provide services</p>	<p>Penny Spring</p>	<p>Removed from D/II</p>	<p>The government published the ‘Living with COVID Plan’ which sets out the responsibilities for the responses for any new variant. UKHSA is responsible for the monitoring, alerting and managing any episodes or cases of new variants in the same way as any other novel disease. Local authorities have been made aware of their responsibilities in the event of any new variant in the Living with COVID plan and subsequent guidance from UKHSA.</p>	
<p>SR44 (CP3)</p>	<p>April 2023 will see the implementation of the CQC inspection framework for Adult Social Care. The significant demands on adult social care, the pressures following covid and the workforce recruitment and retention issues may impact on the ratings resulting in a “requiring improvement” outcome.</p>	<p>Joss Harbron</p>	<p>None at C/II</p>		<p>See main body of report at paragraph 9 (a) viii</p>

<p>SR45 (CP3)</p>	<p>New Risk Potential increase in Asylum Seeker numbers in Darlington as a result of the Government's full dispersal plan that could see numbers double in the next year and the impact on services.</p>	<p>Anthony Sandys</p>	<p>New at C/III</p>	<p>As part of the Home Office's regional dispersal plan the numbers of asylum seekers placed in Darlington could double over the next 12 months. The Government have provided grant funding and new staff have been recruited.</p>	
<p>SR46 (CP3)</p>	<p>New Risk Adult social care waiting lists</p>	<p>Joss Harbron</p>	<p>New at D/II</p>	<p>The teams remain extremely busy with operational pressures including new referrals as well as supporting existing cases. We are currently operating waiting lists within our Adult Contact and OT teams for new referrals due to, in part, a legacy from the pandemic and staffing capacity due to retention and recruitment issues.</p>	
<p>SR47 (CP1)</p>	<p>New Risk Risk of a terrorist attack within the borough</p>	<p>Ian Thompson</p>	<p>New at E/I</p>	<p>Establishment of Darlington Economic Campus. Hostile vehicle mitigation in place in relation to key sites and reviewed in relation to planning events. Training also in place for officers.</p>	